**worshipping together while apart**

**Morning Prayer for Wednesdays during Advent**

*This is an order of service for Wednesday mornings so that we may continue to worship together. Please use it with the reflection which has been written for you by one of our preachers who has also provided ideas for prayers; the reflection sheet will also give you the psalm, the reading and collect. Both the order of service and the reflection will be posted on the Sunnyside and St John’s websites on Tuesdays.*

*If there are two of you, I suggest one person reads leads the service and you both join in with the words in bold.*

*Rebecca*

***Introduction***

O Lord, open our lips

**and our mouth shall proclaim your praise.**

Reveal among us the light of your presence

**that we may behold your power and glory.**

Blessed are you, Sovereign God of all,

to you be praise and glory for ever.

In your tender compassion

the dawn from on high is breaking upon us

to dispel the lingering shadows of night.

As we look for your coming among us this day,

open our eyes to behold your presence

and strengthen our hands to do your will,

that the world may rejoice and give you praise.

**Blessed be God, Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

The night has passed, and the day lies open before us;

**let us pray with one heart and mind.**

*Pause whilst you focus on God’s presence and invite the Holy Spirit to lead you in this act of worship*

**As we rejoice in the gift of this new day,**

**so may the light of your presence, O God,**

**set our hearts on fire with love for you;**

**now and for ever. Amen.**

***Confession***

A voice cries out in the wilderness, ‘Make straight the way of the Lord.’

So let us listen, and turn to the Lord in penitence and faith.

*Take a moment to bring to mind those things you wish to confess to our heavenly Father this morning.*

**Lord God, we have sinned against you;**

**we have done evil in your sight.**

**We are sorry and repent.**

**Have mercy on us according to your love.**

**Wash away our wrongdoing and cleanse us from our sin.**

**Renew a right spirit within us**

**and restore us to the joy of your salvation,**

**through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.**

May the God of love

bring us back to himself,

forgive us our sins,

and assure us of his eternal love

in Jesus Christ our Lord. **Amen.**

***Praise***

Let us worship the Lord

**Praise to his name**

**Glory to the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit;**

**As it was in the beginning, is now, and shall be for ever. Amen.**

***Ministry of the Word***

*Read the Psalm of the Day*

*Read the Bible reading of the day*

This is the word of the Lord

**Thanks be to God**

*Read the reflection on the reading*

What is God saying to you through these readings and reflection?

What does God want you to do about it?

***The Creed***

Let us declare our faith in God.

**We believe in God the Father,**

**from whom every family**

**in heaven and on earth is named.**

**We believe in God the Son,**

**who lives in our hearts through faith,**

**and fills us with his love.**

**We believe in God the Holy Spirit,**

**who strengthens us**

**with power from on high.**

**We believe in one God;**

**Father, Son and Holy Spirit.**

**Amen.**

***Prayers***

*The collect of the day and some suggestions for prayers are on the reflection sheet. Alternatively, you might like to use these prayers*

*Maranatha is an Aramaic word traditionally translated ‘Our Lord, come.’*

In joyful expectation of his coming to our aid

we pray to Jesus.

Come to your Church as Lord and judge.

We pray for …

Help us to live in the light of your coming

and give us a longing for your kingdom.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to your world as King of the nations.

We pray for …

Before you rulers will stand in silence.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to the suffering as Saviour and comforter.

We pray for …

Break into our lives,

where we struggle with sickness and distress,

and set us free to serve you for ever.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come to us as shepherd and guardian of our souls.

We remember …

Give us with all the faithful departed

a share in your victory over evil and death.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Come from heaven, Lord Jesus, with power and great glory.

Lift us up to meet you,

that with all your saints and angels

we may live and reign with you in your new creation.

Maranatha:

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

Silence is kept.

Come, Lord Jesus, do not delay;

give new courage to your people,

who trust in your love.

By your coming, raise us to share in the joy of your kingdom

on earth as in heaven,

where you live and reign with the Father and the Spirit,

one God for ever and ever.

**Amen.**

We gather our prayers together in the words our Saviour taught his disciples to pray

**Our Father in heaven,**

**hallowed be your name,**

**your kingdom come,**

**your will be done,**

**on earth as in heaven.**

**Give us today our daily bread.**

**Forgive us our sins**

**as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Lead us not into temptation**

**but deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,**

**and the glory are yours**

**now and for ever.**

**Amen.**

***Closing prayer***

Our Lord says, ‘I am coming soon.’

**Amen. Come, Lord Jesus.**

May the Lord, when he comes,

find us watching and waiting.

**Amen.**

As we await our coming Saviour, go in peace to love and serve the Lord.

**In the name of Christ, Amen.**

***Coffee***

*Now, why not make yourself a cup of tea or coffee and then ring someone from Sunnyside or St John’s for a chat?*